

GOAL THREE

Provide distance education systems to deliver a comprehensive curriculum to North Dakota students.

STRATEGIES

- Support the implementation of video networking in schools that need video to share courses.
- Develop a distance education clearinghouse site for K-12 high school and dual-credit courses.
- Support the implementation of video networking capabilities in at least one site in every North Dakota school district.
- Implement video networking capabilities and strategies to connect K-12 schools to educational resources outside of the state.
- Develop educational resources and activities based on the Lewis and Clark theme in cooperation with other state agencies.
- Ongoing strategies.



All students in North Dakota should have access to a comprehensive curriculum regardless of their geographic location or school size.

With the implementation and continued support of interactive video networking, students have the opportunity to take courses that might not be offered within their own schools. This technology is especially important for rural students, because they can share classes with their regional neighbors, and not be limited because of teacher shortages or unqualified instructors.

Students from any location can take higher-level courses such as advanced math, specialized sciences and language courses, even courses for college credit, not available within their own schools.

With the increasing number of high school, advanced placement and dual-credit courses available online, a statewide web-based clearinghouse of K-12 course offerings will be developed in 2003. All schools that have courses available for use by students outside of their video consortiums will post those

“Students can ‘travel’ to museums, interpretive centers and national education resources such as NASA, and learn the same content as if they had toured the actual facility.”



offerings with course and contact information available to others who may be interested.

While North Dakota is convinced that students deserve curriculum opportunities, funding for video networking can be a challenge. Although state and federal grant funds provided grants of up to \$20,000 in support to North Dakota schools in 2002 for implementing video networking capabilities, not all schools that applied for grants were able to be funded. Twenty schools with no current videoconferencing capabilities will be funded to support implementation of video in 2003. An additional 25 schools will be funded by Education Telecommunication Council grants to add Internet Protocol (IP) video capabilities to existing video networks. Over 90 video network sites are already operating statewide, and with 35 or 40 additional sites to be added in the near future, every school district in the state will have the ability to communicate and interact through video networking.

The sharing of high school courses isn't the only benefit of video networking. Video is becoming an important tool for administrative meetings, statewide professional development and intra-consortium planning. To ensure that all schools have capabilities to use video for these purposes, 35 sites will be funded for adding IP video conferencing capabilities in 2003.

Another important capability of video networking is the connection of K-12 schools to educational resources outside of the state, such as “virtual field trips.” In order to implement the use of these resources by K-12 teachers and students, new policies and procedures must be developed by the North Dakota Interactive Video Network (IVN) and ITD. Training of school video coordinators and teachers will be necessary to ensure appropriate use and success.

Students can also take an expedition in their own classrooms with the Lewis and Clark Resource Collection. Additional state funding has been requested to enhance this collection. With this collection, teachers bring the history of the expedition to their classrooms using technology-based learning materials that focus on Lewis and Clark as a common theme across the curriculum, including the core subjects and North Dakota history, cultural perspectives and the arts.

The North Dakota Division of Independent Study will continue to expand distance education opportunities for students through traditional, web-based and video delivery of courses for middle- and high-school students. EduTech will provide ongoing support for video consortiums that share courses and other resources using video networking, and continue supporting the use of web course development and delivery tools for K-12 teachers.